(d) whether the DRDO's Nishant has undergone test flights; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No UAV of Pakistan has been shot down by India during the last 3 years.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) DRDO's Nishant has undergone development trails towards meeting the general service qualification requirements (GSQRs) of the Army.

Blast in ordnance factory, Khamaria

656. DR. KARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a blast rocked the Ordnance Factory at Khamaria (M.R) on 7th January, 2002;

(b) if so, the causes of the blast and the devastation caused thereby; and

(c) the precautionary measures taken and proposed to be taken to prevent such blasts?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The exact causes of the blast are not known and the quantum of devastation not fully assessed. One building has been fully damaged and roof of few others damaged partially. A Board of Enquiry has been constituted to enquire into the causes, extent of damage/loss to the building and Government property and to suggest remedial measures. The Board of Enquiry has not yet submitted its report.

(c) After receipt of the report of the Board of Enquiry, suitable precautionary measures specific to the blast will be taken to prevent recurrence of such blasts.

Ammunition blasts near Bikaner

657. SHRJ KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have conducted any preliminary investigations into the cause of ammunition blasts near Bikaner as reported in all the leading newspapers on 12th January, 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether proper safety norms are not being adopted by Government for carrying ammunition from one place to another;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether any responsibility have been fixed in such blast and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (e) An Army convoy of mainly civilian trucks carrying ammunition stationed near Military Station, Bikaner caught fire on 11th January, 2002 at 15.00 Hours. A Court of Inquiry has been ordered to investigate the cause of the fire and to ascertain the details of the loss due to the outbreak of this fire.

From the preliminary investigation it has been ascertained that 17 Army vehicles and 161 civil transport vehicles, army assets including ammunition, a unit run canteen, officers' Mess, and a STD Booth have been destroyed/ damaged. Exact details of the losses will be known on the finalization of the Court of Inquiry. Lapses in adherence of safety norms will emerge from the report of the Court of Inquiry and appropriate action will be taken thereafter. To prevent re-occurrence of such incidents enhanced security is being provided to convoys carrying ammunition and restrictions have been imposed on the number of vehicles in a convoy. Further, it has been decided to use military transport and trains to the maximum extent possible for the movement of ammunitions.

Benefits of dual citizenship

658. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the facilities the dual citizens would enjoy in India on being granted such citizenship; and

(b) whether they would be able to buy properties in their own name?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) The Government has not decided to grant dual citizenship.